



The Rowan Tree



Number 57

Clan Lachlan Association of Canada Inc.

www.clanlachlan.ca

Hon. Patron, Euan Maclachlan of Maclachlan, Chief of Clan Lachlan

President's Message

Dear Clan Members,

I write this in August about 18 months after the onset of Covid 19.

As we face the possibility of a serious outbreak with the 4th wave, I hope that you and yours rise above the challenge.

We are living through the spread of the world-wide internet. We now have the ability to form almost instantly world-wide communities of people who share common interests and values.

The hall marks of the Society membership have been the preservation of the iconic Old Castle Lachlan and Kilmorie Chapel & the preservation of Clan Records and Genealogy. The present Branch System is likely to be replaced by “interest” groups giving instant communication of video and audio on a one-on-one basis.

The basic membership in the Clan Lachlan Association of Canada (CLA) brings membership in the Clan Society and a membership number which identifies your place in the Society data base, and gives the right to a donation to the Lachlan Trust which gives a Canadian tax benefit.

I am maintaining this system and developing a platform for forming “interest” groups. Again, I appeal for volunteers to help maintain the system.

Duncan MacLachlan - #41
Chief's Commissioner,
Executive Trustee Lachlan Trust of Canada,
President Clan Lachlan Association of Canada.

Clan MacLachlan on Facebook

You might want to look at the CMS Facebook page, which enables you to post information, ask questions, and view updates (as they occur).

<http://www.facebook.com/ClanMacLachlanSociety>

Another website which may be of interest to you is the

Scots Tongue Website

<http://www.cs.stir.ac.uk/~kjt/general/scots.html>

Ceud Mile Failte: 100,000 Welcomes to our New Members

Full Members

There are no new members to welcome for this Fall issue of “The Rowan Tree”.

Note: Due to privacy concerns, stemming from new Federal legislation, we are no longer publishing full addresses of new members. However, should an individual member wish to contact another member, we can put both in touch with each other.

Flowers of the Forest

Francis MacLachlan - #334

Francis passed away on April 18, 2021 at the age of 95. As you can see from his Membership Number, Francis was one of the very early members of the Clan MacLachlan Society. As well, he was the brother of our former Vice President and Membership Chairman, Sandy MacLachlan, who pre-deceased Francis some years ago.



L to R: Francis MacLachlan, brother Sandy MacLachlan, and Ken Godfrey – Sept. 26, 2004

Per an obituary, published in the Kingston Whig Standard newspaper, we have -

On Sunday, April 18, 2021, Francis Arnold "Skipper" MacLachlan, loving husband, father, and grandfather, set sail and disappeared over the horizon one last time, at the generous age of 95. He lived a long, healthy, and prosperous life. He insisted that his passing should not be regarded as a tragedy.

Francis was born on January 5, 1926 in Kingston, Ontario, to Grant and Sara (née Snell) MacLachlan, the second of three children. Entranced by sailing ships and all things naval, Francis joined the Canadian Navy in late 1945 and thus was too late for battle (to his disappointment). Still, with the Navy he steamed across the Atlantic to do cleanup in England. Returning to Canada in 1946 (aboard the RMS Aquitania) he completed a Mechanical Engineering Degree at Queen's University (1949) and then returned to England, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, and earned a Degree in Naval Architecture (1951). With a Newcastle colleague and friend, he founded a boat-building firm (while working as a draftsman in the Newcastle shipyards) and designed and built a series of highly competitive racing sailboats. Returning to Canada he took a teaching job at Queen's University and continued with boat building. In 1953 the first of three square-rigged sail-training ships designed by Francis, The St. Lawrence II, was launched in Kingston. The St. Lawrence II originally worked in the service of the Sea Cadets but by the early 1960's had moved on to serve a wider community of youth in the Kingston area. Two sister ships Pathfinder (1963) and Playfair (1973) were commissioned by a new Toronto based organization, Toronto Brigantine, to expand youth leadership training out of that end of Lake Ontario. These ships, two still in operation today, have over 150 combined years of operation and have enriched the lives of thousands of people--many of whom acknowledge Francis as an important mentor and inspiration.

In 1962, still youthful and heavily involved in ship building and sail training, Francis met a beautiful young English woman Rosemary Campling, and they married in 1964. Their four children Katharine, Keith, Christine, and Jennifer were born between 1966 and 1973. In his long and healthy life, Francis was blessed to see and get to know 6 wonderful grandchildren: Teagan, Ewan, Callum, Cecilia, Frances, and Elizabeth.

Though colour-blind, he was an immaculate draftsman. He was also a lover of classical symphonic music, gravitating in his later years almost exclusively towards Ludwig Von Beethoven. Even in his final days his mind was sharp enough to remember his love of sailing, Beethoven and above all, his devoted and graceful wife of 57 years, "Rosy". While not a gifted singer he was still heard by those around him to sing "Good Morning to You" to Rosy each morning (and some evenings) up to his very last days.

In addition to his contributions to sail-training and youth leadership, Francis served for many years with passion and dedication as a Professor of Civil Engineering at Queen's University. He was also a lifelong member at Chalmers United Church where he led the music committee and was an elder. He was an amateur photographer, avid skier, and enthusiastic hockey player and even coached his son's minor hockey team for a couple of years.

Francis was predeceased by his parents, and older brother and great friend Alexander "Sandy" MacLachlan. He is survived by his younger sister Katharine, his wife, children and grandchildren, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

The MacLachlan family are extremely grateful to Kingsbridge Retirement Community, Providence Care Hospital, Kingston General Hospital, Limestone City Home Health Care and many friends and family, in particular, Christine MacLachlan, Joan Simeon, Jane McEwan, Maurice Smith and Andy Soper, who have provided love and extra support to Rosemary and Francis over the past months. Many others (too many to name) are in our hearts and minds for their kind contributions and great friendships over Francis' life. A small private funeral service (attendance limit due to COVID-19) was held at James Reid Funeral Home on Friday, April 23, 1:00 p.m. ET. The service was live streamed, for the link visit Francis' obit page on www.jamesreidfuneralhome.com. Donations in Francis' name can be made to Tall Ship Expeditions Canada at www.tallshipexpeditions.com/donate.

Patricia Florence Gilchrist 1930 to 2021 - #1492

Sadly, these words will advise all of my and Patsy's friends that my life-long and dearest companion of seventy-four years has departed. My best friend has gone and my heart is broken.

Our son Steven, and daughters Peggy and Patti, join me in expressing their sorrow at the loss of their wonderful and caring mother whose love surrounded them all their lives. Pat's four grandchildren, Craig, Steve, Dallas and Dakota, and four great-grandchildren, Elliott, Maisy, Charlie and Abigail were the latest joys of her life, and her strong and determined spirit served her to the end, as did the love, care and attention given to her by her devoted family.

Friends, I can't let her go without acknowledging and thanking her for the love and high standards she gave to us her whole life. I met Pat on her seventeenth birthday, when her career as a model and fashion designer had just begun. Her high standards in design carried on in dressmaking, sewing and everything else. Only the best would ever do, whether in sewing, knitting, cooking or caring for her family. She raised, clothed, guided and protected her kids through their early years and a dozen family moves from Toronto to Peterborough, to Bradford, to Calgary, to Summerside, P.E.I., back to Toronto and finally to Cobourg, where she and I will spend eternity, together.

As one of six sisters, her beautiful, extended family was something she cherished deeply, as she did with her dozen high school friends, many still going after three-quarters of a century together.

How could we ever forget such a beautiful, caring and accomplished person? All I can do now is offer my heartfelt thanks to the loveliest person I have ever known, and who will live in my heart forever.



Submitted by Gordon Gilchrist - #1492

Invitation to View Contents of Electric Scotland Website

Alastair has a huge amount of Scottish content on his web site, and you are most welcome to view and enjoy its offerings. There are tons of humour, stories, recipes, children's stories, general articles, and much more.

Alastair McIntyre FSA Scot
Electric Scotland
<http://www.electricscotland.com>
<http://www.electriccanadian.com>

Some Scottish History and Authors

Thanks to advice from a friend, Bob Bissett, (a former resident of Edinburgh), here is a link to a website which may be of some interest to our readers,

A little bit of history, and a mention of Robert Louis Stevenson and Muriel Spark.

<https://www.edinburghlive.co.uk/news/edinburgh-news/edinburgh-resident-dastardly-double-life-21402320>

Some of your Scottish contacts may enjoy this. They should also go to the main site for additional mini-videos.

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/heritage/groundbreaking-reconstruction-of-16th-century-edinburgh-before-burning-by-english-forces-released-3289474>

<https://www.smarthistory.co.uk/Edinburgh1544/>

As well, if you have an interest in poetry, you might like the following link too.

<https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2021/08/new-makar-appointed-by-the-first-minister/>

And, finally, the last website recommendation from Bob Bissett, for your enjoyment, which is a link to a fun video showing a lot of Edinburgh sites.

https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/people/celine-dion-video-shot-in-edinburgh-goes-viral-more-than-30-years-after-filming-3329945?utm_campaign=en-news-api&utm_medium=email&hsmi=145290380&hsenc=p2ANqtz-1J7-h-ms4H75SPxj-m74hbWCCUIUAWcoCLYONUEoF_9iDDH0-clOqN-YTruE67NElpd2M6ApW9bHPtpzi3ouPfjxCBg&utm_content=145290380&utm_source=hs_email

Celtic Life International Magazine

On behalf of our publisher, Siobhan L. Covington, please enjoy this complimentary copy of our new edition!

[**PDF
FLIPBOOK**](#)

Feel free to share with members of your Clan!

Sláinte!

Celtic Life International
www.celticlifeintl.com

Scottish Studies Foundation Fall 2021



Damask and Dunfermline

The Weaving Trade of Dunfermline in the 18th and 19th centuries

Greetings from the Scottish Studies Foundation.

I do hope you have had a pleasant summer and that things are returning to some semblance of normality in your area.

As we approach the fall season I am pleased to let you know that we will be continuing with our series of online talks on a variety of topics of interest to Scots worldwide and which will allow "attendees" to participate and to ask questions.

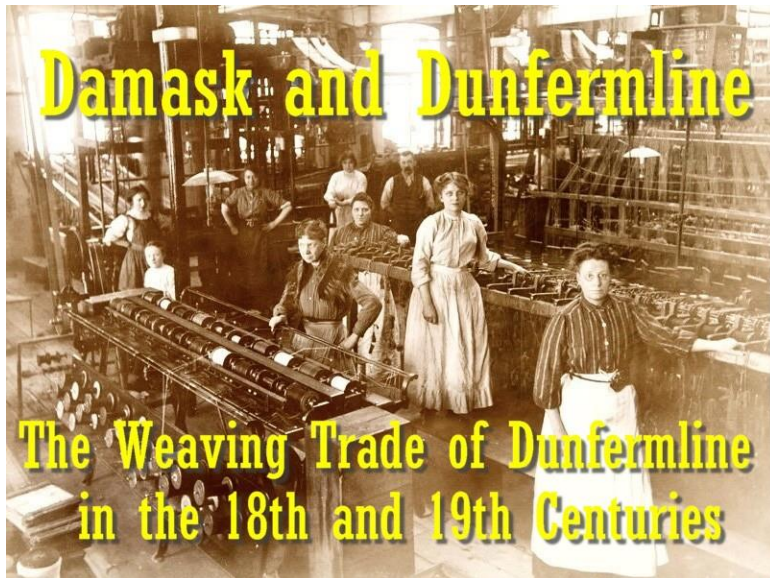
The next in this series has been scheduled for **Friday, September 10, 2021, at 11 a.m. (local time Toronto), 4 p.m. (UK)** and will be given by University of Dundee PhD candidate Catherine Chorley who will present her fascinating research into how espionage, enterprise and expertise came together to make the City and Royal Burgh of Dunfermline in Scotland famous for its production of the complex woven fabric known as damask.

— BACKGROUND INFORMATION —

Dunfermline has had many claims to fame. It was once the ancient Capital of Scotland. It was the burial place of King Robert the Bruce and the birthplace millionaire philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. It is now one of the few places in Scotland that has a Tim Hortons! But in the 18th and 19th centuries its reputation was based on the production of damask.

Evidence of a commercial weaving trade in Dunfermline goes back to the 15th century and manufacturing of damask linen was the principal occupation in Dunfermline by the early 19th century. Weaving was initially undertaken on hand-loom and was very much a family affair with women and children supporting male weavers with tasks such as yarn winding and pirn filling and with work being generally allocated on the basis of age and gender. Industrialization involved movement of labour and resources away from primary production in the home to factory manufacture, firstly in hand-loom factories and then in power-loom factories.

Weavers with Jacquard looms in the late 1800s



Damasks are woven with one warp yarn and one weft yarn and because of the way in which the weave is carried out the textile appears to have a sheen. Rather than being printed, the pattern in damask is generated by the weaving process and therefore can be seen from both sides of the material.

The damask produced in Dunfermline was linen and used as tableware which, from the eighteenth century, became more popular and moved from a luxury item to one within the scope of many middle-class families.

A number of factors contributed to the success in Dunfermline. These included a well-organized workforce of skilled hand-loom weavers working for manufacturers who were able to market their wares effectively.

Dunfermline weavers were quick to adapt to new technology and, in some cases, were at the forefront of inventions which increased productivity. In particular, the French invention of the Jacquard machine added to looms from around 1830 in Dunfermline ensured a quicker more accurate weave with attractive patterns that could be repeated endlessly. The Jacquard machine was programmed to work using a series of punched cards, a technique which became the forerunner of computer systems.

Dunfermline grew into the major damask tableware producing town in Great Britain so that: "Amid the numerous tall stalks, belching forth their clouds of smoke, the clanking engines, and the noise of the power loom, were an emigrant to return who had been absent only a few years ... he would not know his home town."

Whilst men were the key weavers until around 1860, it was women who became the machine minders in the power-loom factories. At the height of the power-loom production around 1880, nearly six thousand people were employed in eleven factories throughout the town. The factory owners were all local men, some with experience of hand-loom weaving but most without previous experience though with entrepreneurial flair.

In many aspects Dunfermline was not unique. For example, the Jacquard machine contributed to the success of the Paisley shawls and the cotton masters in Glasgow were entrepreneurs too. However, a combination of factors led to the production of damask tableware popular throughout the world until fashions changed after the First World War.

— REGISTRATION —

To register for this event, kindly contact David Hunter by email at davidhunter@scottishstudies.com You will then be sent the appropriate Zoom login information. **Please register no later than Thursday, September 9th.**

This is a free event, but a donation would be appreciated. All donations will go to our Undergraduate Scholarship Campaign.

I do hope you will find this talk of interest. Please visit our website which will be updated as more items of interest become available.

Best regards and thank you very much for your support,

David Hunter
President
Scottish Studies Foundation
davidhunter@scottishstudies.com
www.scottishstudies.com

Genealogy Research

MacLachlin Reunion in Kilmartin on August 15, 1922

Per information submitted by Neil & Jean Armstrong, I now have copies (in 4 parts) of a wonderful MacLachlin Photo from 1922, now almost 100 years old!

As well, the Rev. Ken Campbell (who died April 17, 2000) made an attempt to identify many of the 118 folks in this very large group. So, if you have any of these surnames in your family, and might like some additional data on them, to add to your own research or “tree”, please let me know, and maybe I can help you out a bit.

These surnames are, (but in no particular order, and with spellings as recorded on a typed sheet):
McLachlan/McLachlin/McLauchlin, McNeil, McVicar, Patterson, McLean, McEachern, Routley, McAlpine, McNaughton, Livingston, Taylor, Wallis, Dunbar, Riddell, Trouillard, Roberts, Moore, Harris, Felker, Williams, Hill, Leitch, McCollum, Vosburgh, McKellar, McDougall, Lunn, Hamilton, Campbell, Munro, Gray, Porter, McArthur, Dolphin, Livingston, Lightfoot, Janes, Metcalfe, Mawhinney, Bailey, Carruthers, Oliver, Robertson, Ross, Sutherland, Cummings, Nisbet, Luke, Agar, Haig, Steadman, and Towers.

There is also a photo-copy of a page from the Family Bible of Catherine McLachlan (born October 1812) and Hugh J. Leitch (born August 1811), who were bot born in Argyleshire, Scotland, (and eleven of their children

born in Canada) which is now [Jan. 25, 1994] in the possession of Dr. Gordon B. Leitch, Jr. of Portland, Oregon, USA.

Data Submitted by Jean & Neil Armstrong - #1431 – Article written by Ken Godfrey - #802

CATHERINE (McLACHLAN) AND HUGH J. LEITCH & THEIR FAMILIES

1. CATHERINE MacLACHLAN - Her Family



Hugh MacLachlan was born in Kilmartin Parish, Argyllshire in 1782 and his wife Catherine MacCallum born in the same parish in 1787. They were married in 1807 and blessed with a family of thirteen, ten of whom sailed with them from Glasgow to Canada in June of 1830.

The subject of this essay is their second born daughter, Catherine (McLachlan) Leitch who was eighteen years of age when they left Scotland. After a six-week tiresome voyage they reached Quebec, but their destination was Upper Canada as Ontario was called then. They eventually reached New Glasgow on the shores of Lake Erie and from there trudged to their new home on Lot 1, Concession 8, Mosa Township, Middlesex County, reaching it on November twelfth. Her mother was pregnant during this long journey and Catherine's youngest brother, Alexander was born a month later in December. (Note: "The Family Tree of the MacLachlans of Kilmartin", tell us, Hugh and Catherine McLachlan had a family of fourteen, nine of whom sailed with them, but their family tree only lists 13 children)

Hugh and Catherine (MacCallum) MacLachlan's family were:

1. **DONALD** b. May 1807 d. Aug. 4, 1882 m. Jane McTavish and farmed on L4 C5 Mosa Twp. They had 10 children, Alexander, Catharine, Christie, Duncan, Sarah, Hugh T., Elizabeth (Betsy), Mary, John and Alexander.
2. **DUNCAN** b. May 1809 d. Nov. 8, 1884 m. Janet Munro, and farmed on L1 C9 Mosa Twp. They had eight children, Robert, Malcolm, Hugh, Janet, Dan, John, Alexander, Duncan D.
3. **BETSY** b. 1811 d. May 6, 1885 m. Robert McAlpine and farmed on L8 C7 Mosa Twp.
4. ***CATHERINE (Our Subject)** b.1812 d. Nov. 25, 1876 m. Hugh J. Leitch and farmed on L22 C12, Metcalfe Twp.
5. **CHILD** died in Scotland
6. **SARAH** b. 1816 d. March 7, 1886 m. Donald McAlpine farmed in Ekfrid Twp. They had a family of six children, Mary, Flora, Anne, Catharine, Malcolm and Janet.
7. **MARY** b. 1820 d. Dec. 1898 m. Alexander McAlpine (Robt. McAlpine's ½ brother) farmed in Brooke Twp. Lambton County. They had ten children: Duncan, Alexander, Effie, Katie, Jeanette, Lizzie, Sarah, Mary, Hugh, Flora.

8. **JULIA** b. 1821 m. Archie Campbell and farmed on L9 C2 Brooke Twp. They had seven children: Mary, Kate, Hugh, Robert, Alexander, Janet, Christie.
9. **FLORA** b. Jan. 20, 1822 d. Nov. 27, 1916 m. Alexander McVicar, a Kilmartin shoemaker, farmed L1 C8 Mosa Twp. They lost an infant child b. 1869 d. 1870 and raised her brother Hugh's daughter, Flora.
10. **GILES** b. March 9, 1825 d. in Scotland
11. **JANE** b. Feb. 25, 1827 d. in Scotland
12. **HUGH** b. Oct. 15, 1828 d. March 14, 1923 m. Mary McBane and farmed on the original homestead L1 C8 Mosa Twp. They had nine children: Catherine, Hugh H., Sarah, Dugald, Archie, Duncan, Flora, Dan, Julia, Neil.
13. **ALEXANDER** b. Dec. 17, 1830 d. Jan. 15, 1924; buried Kilmartin Cemetery m. Sarah Ferguson – was an early teacher and farmer on L1 C5, Mosa Twp. They had nine children: Hugh, Dan, Katie, Jane, John, Flora, Dr. Duncan F., Sarah Anne, Gordon. Only Dr. Duncan F., Katie and Sarah Anne married.

The Clan Name was shortened from MacLachlan to McLachlan although variations are to be found.

The above information was taken from "The Family Tree of the MacLachlans of Kilmartin" (Ontario) no author or compiler was named but the Forward was written by Ward Leitch of Bothwell, Ont. on March 11, 1971. It includes genealogies of the above families, and this book was updated in 1995 by Donald S. Conkey, Atlanta Georgia (Gt. Grandson of Hugh McLachlan and Catherine McCallum). This update states that all dates are from the family Bible of Hugh J. and Catherine Leitch now (1994) in the possession of Dr. Gordon B. Leitch Jr. in Portland, Oregon, who is also a Gt Grandson of Hugh J and Catherine (McLachlan) Leitch

Hugh, Catherine McLachlan and their family trudged from New Glasgow to their new home on Lot one Concession eight Mosa Township, Middlesex County, reaching it in November. Today this trip is approximately 41 km taking about a half hour by car. Lot one Concession eight is the lot west of the Burn's Mosa Presbyterian Church at Kilmartin on the present-day highway 80.

The trails this family trekked across the sparsely settled country may have been a little shorter distance, but still it would have taken them more than one or two-day's walk with ten children aged two years to twenty-three years and remember their mother, Catherine was eight months pregnant. Being November, the weather could have been cold and there may have been snow on the ground. We will never know where they slept or how they survived on their difficult trek into the bush. Or how they lived until their log cabin was constructed. It would have been an extremely difficult time for all of them.

After selecting their land, new settlers were expected to clear so much of their land, have certain crops planted and build homes and barns within a certain time period. When they had saved enough money, they would have paid one dollar to four dollars an acre to receive their deed. The early deeds were written on parchment and signed by the Governor of the Province.

From Ontario Land records for Mosa Twp., Middlesex County, we learn that Hugh McLachlan received the deed from the Crown for one hundred acres on the North half of Lot one, Concession eight on May 3, 1848. This land was in the family until 1940.

Note from the book "History of Burn's Church, Mosa, 1833-1941" page six, - The Rev. Andrew Bell, when making his report of his missionary tour of 1831, before the United Presbytery of Upper Canada, stated "that he learned there were about twelve Presbyterian families in the back part of Mosa". This appears to be the first reference to the "Mosa Group" in any church document. Services were held in the barn of the late Mr. Hugh McLauchlin, just north-west of the present Burn's Mosa Church on Lot 1 Con. 8, Mosa before the first log church was built.

2. HUGH J LEITCH – His Family

Catherine McLachlan's husband, Hugh J. Leitch b. Sept. 1, 1810, was the son of John Leitch 1766-1843 and Flora Johnston 1770-1819 and Grandson of Donald Leitch and Margaret Graham of Inverary, Argyleshire. (His Grandparents did not come to Canada). This family originated in Achachosin, Parish in North Knapdale, Argyleshire, Scotland.

Hugh J. Leitch, aged eight years, came to Canada in 1819 with his parents John and Flora Leitch and his three brothers and five sisters. They sailed from Crinan, Scotland on the vessel "Harmony" and were nine weeks, three days crossing the Atlantic to Montreal. Proceeding up the St. Lawrence by boat and thence by ox-team and boat where possible on the rest of their journey. During this journey, Hugh J.'s mother, (Flora Johnston) died at Queenston, and is buried three miles from that place in a Mr. Rose's family graveyard.

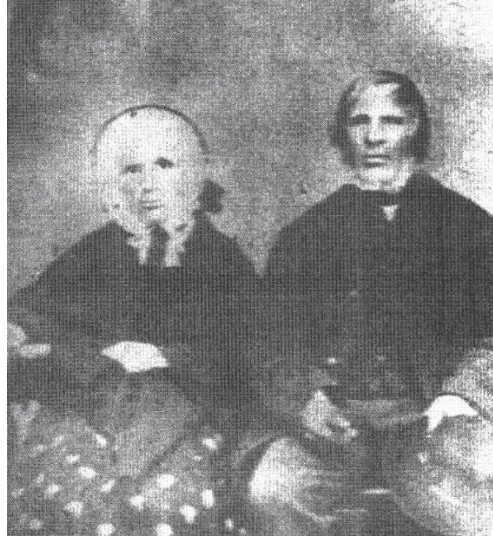
John Leitch 1766-1843 and Flora Johnston d. 1819 Children:

1. **Margaret Leitch** 1795 -1859 m. Jeremia Gray, had 2 sons
2. **Mary Leitch** 1798 – 1894 m. Samuel McColl, had 9 sons and 2 daughters
3. **Neil Leitch** 1800 -1892 m. Janet Munro 1807-1848, had 5 sons and 3 daughters
4. **Nancy Leitch** 1802 – m. Adam Culver lived near Simcoe in Norfolk County
5. **Isabelle Leitch** 1804-1859 m. Malcolm Downie had 9 sons and 4 daughters and lived on L4C10 Mosa Twp. – (this is my Gt. Gt. Grandparents – Jean Armstrong)
6. **Donald Leitch** 1806 – 1859 m. Jane Stewart (lived on S1/2 L8C9 Mosa Twp) had 1 son and 1 daughter
7. **Sarah Leitch** 1808-
8. ***Hugh J Leitch 1811-1900 m. Catherine McLachlan 1812-1870 (lived on L22 C12, Metcalfe Twp) had 8 sons and 3 daughters**
9. **Alexander Leitch** 1814 – (lived on N1/2 L8C8 Mosa Twp – later moved to USA and lost contact)

After John Leitch's wife died near Queenston, he and his children kept going until they landed at Port Glasgow on Lake Erie. They settled in the Township of Aldborough on N.W. ¼ of Lot 17, Con. 13 in the year 1819 five miles from the town of West Lorne on land that was part of the "Colonel Talbot Settlement". For eleven years they attempted to make a living for themselves. But the soil in this township was light sand, and not productive. In 1830 they moved to Mosa Township, Middlesex County, near Bear Creek. The early census of Metcalfe Twp, shows the name of John Leitch registered with a son, Hugh J. Leitch on L22 C14 Mosa Twp. Ontario Land Records show Hugh Leitch received from the Crown the patent for S1/2 of Lot 22, Concession 14 (100 acres) in July of 1847 and the patent for Lot 22, Concession 12, (200 acres) on Jan. 12, 1848. Both farms in Metcalf Twp. were passed down through the family until 1889.

CATHERINE (McLACHLAN) & HUGH J LEITCH – Their Family

Four years after Catherine and her family's arrival in Mosa Township, she was married to Hugh J. Leitch on 21 January, 1834 at her family's pioneer home by Dugald Campbell, Baptist Minister from Aldborough Twp. Mosa and Metcalfe Townships are divided today by 80-highway. The Leitch farm was in Metcalfe Twp. almost directly across the road from the McLachlan farm in Mosa Township. Hugh J. Leitch died Feb. 12, 1926 and his wife Catherine (McLachlan) Leitch died Nov. 14, 1930.



Their Children: Note from #2. All 11 children of this family have “L” as their middle initial to remind the children of their McLachlan heritage.

1. John L Leitch b. Dec. 19, 1834 – d. Nov. 18, 1889 named for his father’s father, m..Sarah Campbell July 26, 1865. The daughter of John “Hedley” Campbell & Catherine Campbell. They had 8 children; Catherine, John, Hugh J, Sarah, Mary Ann, Neil A, Duncan, Malcolm and farmed in Metcalfe township before moving to Bad Axe, Huron County, Michigan. [They probably moving near Bad Axe, Huron County, Michigan prior to the early 1880’s. His uncle, Neil Livingston moved near Bad Axe to Sheridan township, Huron County, Mi. in 1878 and died in the great fire of 1881]. * See re Great fire 1881--

<https://www.michiganstumb.com/news/article/The-Great-Fire-of-1881-How-the-Thumb-survived-7341540.php>

2. Hugh L Leitch b. Nov. 12, 1836 in Mosa Twp. – d. Feb. 12, 1926 – named for his mother’s father. On Nov. 21, 1860 he married Janet Mitchell b. 1836 – d. Dec. 8, 1911, daughter of Duncan Mitchell 1795-1875 and Catherine Leitch 1799-1879, natives of Lochgair, Argyllshire Scotland, emigrating to Melcalfe Twp. in 1831. Hugh L and Janet Leitch farmed on L1, C11 Metcalfe Twp and later purchased L29, C6, Brooke Twp. Lambton County across the road from where Hugh L was born. They had 8 children, all were given the middle name of Mitchell: Hugh, Duncan, Isabelle (twin), William (twin), Catherine, Duncan, Sarah, and John. After Janet died, Hugh moved to Alvinston. Both are buried in Kilmartin Cemetery Row 14, # 31 & 32.

3. Alexander L Leitch was born in Mosa Twp. on Dec. 30, 1838 and died on June 18, 1930. May 26, 1865, he married Mary Moore, daughter of Dugald Moore and Janet Henderson. Alex was one of the first school teachers in Metcalfe Twp.; first store keeper in Alvinston, a Middlesex County auditor, local historian, and lived many years in Strathroy. He wrote a history of the McLachlans for the first McLachlan reunion on August 15, 1922. They had five children: Margaret, Catherine, Jennie, Isabelle, and Neil.

4. Duncan L Leitch b. June 24, 1841 – d. June 25, 1892. On June 13, 1870 he married Margaret McLean. They had 11 children: Flora Ann, Aleck, Janet, Katie, Robert, Isabelle, Hugh, Betsey, Isabelle (2), Mary, and Flora May. The Strathroy Age Dispatch credited Duncan with having prepared himself to be a school teacher in Metcalfe Township “by energy and perseverance”. He taught school in Napier for some years and in 1869, he was appointed Superintendent of the elementary schools in Metcalfe Township. From 1876 to 1883, he taught in the Strathroy Collegiate Institute, and then became Principal of the Public School, and the Superintendent of the Sabbath School of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church. In 1887, he had been President of the Strathroy Mechanics Institute.

Note: Catherine and Hugh J reversed the “rule of names” for their daughters. They called their first daughter, Flora after Hugh J’s mother, who died at Queenston on her way to Kilmartin.

5. Flora L Leitch b. May 26, 1843 – d. Dec. 24, 1933. She married her first cousin, Hugh R. McAlpine b. Jan.

30, 1841 – d. Nov. 14, 1926, son of Robert McAlpine and Betsy McLachlan on Nov. 21, 1867. They farmed on L8 C9, Mosa Twp. and developed a picnic site in the wooded area at the back of their farm along the Sydenham River. They were noted for their gracious hospitality. The McAlpine children, born on this family farm in Mosa Twp, Middlesex County were: Janet, Catherine (Katie) 1871-1961, Robert L 1872-1959, Isabelle 1874-1874, Hugh 1876-1876, Betsy L 1877-1970, Isabelle (2) 1879-1971, Mary 1881-1881, Flora May 1884-1887. Flora and Hugh McAlpine's obituary was published in the Glencoe Transcript indicate both died peacefully at their home of 59 years in Mosa Township. Both buried in Kilmartin Cemetery.

6. Catherine L Leitch b. April 8, 1845 – d. Nov. 14, 1930. Never married. Catherine worked on the farm and after her mother died kept house for her father. After the family farm was sold in 1896 she and her father lived with her son, Rev. Hugh Donald Leitch and his wife and family in St. Elmo, Glengarry County, Ontario. Catherine continued living with her son, both in Ontario and Saskatchewan, after her father died in 1900. Her son, Hugh Donald Leitch born April 6, 1871 – d. Aug. 20, 1938. He married Minnie Maud Berkeley b. April 27, 1873 – d. May 1, 1956, on July 14, 1897. They had two children: Gordon Berkeley Leitch and Olive Kathleen Leitch.

7. Isabelle L Leitch b. May 15, 1847 – d. Jan. 20, 1852 in Metcalfe Township (4 years)

8. Neil L Leitch b. Mar. 22, 1849 – d. July, 1849 (4 months)

9. Neil L Leitch (2) b. July 20, 1850 – d. June 11, 1933. On Dec. 21, 1880 he married Annie Mitchell b. Oct. 28, 1861-Mar. 11, 1947 daughter of John P. Mitchell and Betsy McCallum. The couple farmed E1/2 of the N1/2 of L22, C12 in Metcalfe township, before moving to L11, C6, Mosa Twp in 1891. Neil was an Elder in Cameron Presbyterian Church for many years. This church building is now located at the Lambton County Museum near Grand Bend. Annie, a serious student of the Bible, which, in later years, she read in Gaelic, which she claimed was more accurate than English translation. Their children were: Catherine, Katie, John Alexander, Hugh Neil, Peter Gordon, Duncan Russell and Peter Edward (Ward), Bessie May.

10. Donald L or Daniel L Leitch b. April 16, 1852 – d. Aug. 19, 1888 was a cripple from birth and spent his days on the family farm.

11. Malcolm L Leitch b. Aug. 23, 1855 – d. Nov. 15, 1943 the youngest son, married Flora Stewart McDonell b. Dec. 26, 1854 – d. Feb. 1, 1944, daughter of Alexander Cameron McDonell and Margaret Stewart at the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Williamstown, Ontario on July 14, 1885 by Rev. Alex McGillivray. Malcolm L Leitch graduated from Strathroy Collegiate taught school for a few years, then worked for a grading crew which was building the CPR to the west. He went on to graduate from the Presbyterian College, McGill University, Montreal and was ordained by the Montreal Presbytery in 1885. He faithfully served his church for 50 years before retiring to Moneta, CA in June of 1935 at the age of 80 years. He died in Hermosa Beach, Ca and is buried in Roosevelt Memorial Park, Gardena, Ca. Their children were Stewart Leitch, William Firth Leitch, and Kenzie McDonell Leitch. (See *2 for more information about Malcolm L. Leitch)

References:

1. Extract Old Parochial Register for Parish of N. Knapdale, Argyll for Hugh J Leitch b. Sept. 1, 1810
2. *Kilmartin Pioneers: 1815-1855* by Kenneth McKellar 1991
3. *1995 Update of the Catherine MacLachlan and Hugh J. Leitch Family History* – an update of the 1971 publication by Ward Leitch of the "The Family Tree of the MacLachlans of Kilmartin with supported updated material provided by Kenneth Campbell, Burlington, Ontario and Wm. M. Campbell, London, Ontario.... Updated in 1995 by Donald S. Conkey, Atlanta, Georgia (Gt. Gt Grandson of Hugh MacLachlan and Catherine McCallum. – All dates are from the family bible of Hugh J and Catherine MacLachlan Leitch, now (1994) in the possession of Dr. Gordon B. Leitch Jr. in Portland Oregon. Dr. Gordon is a grandson of Rev. Hugh D. Leitch, son of Hugh J. and Catherine (McLachlan) Leitch.
4. *Ontario Land Records for*
Middlesex County, Metcalfe Twp. L22, C12; L22 C14;

Middlesex County, Mosa Twp. L1, C8; L2, C8

5. *Historical Atlas of Middlesex County, Ontario* p. 50 Mosa Twp, p. 38 Metcalfe Twp

6. *History of Burn's Church, Mosa* 1835-1941

7. *History and Family Tree of the Leitch's 1819-1980* by Mungo Leitch

8. *Some Sketches of The Early Highland Pioneers of County of Middlesex* by Hugh McColl (Strathroy Postmaster) Originally published in 1904.

From Ontario Historical Society Papers and Records Vol IX 1910 p.26-32

The Highland Pioneers of the County of Middlesex - excerpt....

Gaelic was practically the only language spoken, and all their customs, not only from their early training, but from their surroundings, were simple and primitive. The old Highland "Ceilah" kept in the long winter evenings, around great blazing log fires, rested and refreshed them as the pleasant hours were spent in recalling the scenes, incidents, and even superstitions of their native land, reciting or singing Gaelic songs or hymns.

First trace of a pioneer Highlander in Middlesex County, was Ronald McDonald who in 1798 obtained a patent on land on which Delaware village stands

In Mosa the Highland settlers occupied the northern part of the township from the 4th to the 10th concession, and the first settler was Archibald Sinclair, 1827. Many others followed in the next few years, a large number of whom had come to Aldborough, Elgin County at an earlier date. The wave of immigration continued during that and following years until about 100 families had come in chiefly from the northern counties of Scotland.

The first log school house in Mosa was erected SS#8, about 1836 followed by another No. 9 soon after. Patrick McGregor was probably the first teacher in No. 8 and others were Duncan McCallum, Findlay Munroe and Walter Payne. In Metcalfe the first school was opened in 1839 and the first teacher was Duncan McCallum.

The pupils who attended those primitive schools in most cases knew only Gaelic, but they soon acquired a knowledge of English, and made such rapid progress in their studies that before many years had passed they could compare favourably with those of other origins.

About 1835 a small log house for religious services was built in Mosa, followed in a few years by a large one, and in 1867 by a brick church.

Submitted by Jean & Neil Armstrong - #1431

James McLachlan – Missionary – and his connection to Canada's Indian Residential Schools

In 2007, Neil and I attended the funeral of Neil Wilson at the United Church in Alvinston, Ontario. His daughter, Marie Wilson spoke at the funeral. We were extremely impressed by this lady. That year she was appointed commissioner, along with The Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair, (Chair) and Chief Wilton Littlechild, commissioner to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee. We have been following this commission's work with great interest since it began. We were very interested in learning how the Presbyterian Church was involved in these schools. This church was responsible for 11 schools until 1925. After church union in 1925, the United Church took over the responsibility of 9 of these schools, leaving the Presbyterian Church running two schools: Cecilia Jeffery Residential School near Kenora ON, and the Birtle Residential School in Manitoba.

In going through my files since the sad news of the bodies they have found in unmarked graves at the Residential schools, I found the photo below taken at Berens River Day School, on the east shores of Lake Winnipeg.



Reverend Thompson Ferrier taking boys to school in Brandon, Manitoba, in 1904. The year before, the Methodist missionary **James MacLachlan** and six students he was taking from Berens River to the Brandon industrial school drowned in a canoe accident. *Manitoba Museum EP 347.*

James Arthur McLachlan mentioned below the photo was born in 1855 and died in 1903. He was a Methodist Missionary to Western Canada. Born in Aylmer, Ontario, he was ordained in 1879 and that same year was posted to the Methodist Indian Mission in Victoria, BC. In 1891, he was transferred to Berens River Mission, Manitoba. He married Sarah E. McLachlan and they had one daughter, Madeline.

He, and the six students he was taking from Berens River to the Brandon Industrial Residential School, drowned in a canoe accident on Lake Winnipeg in 1903. From <http://uccdigitalcollections.ca/collection/show/4>

For further information about Manitoba History: Methodist Indian Day Schools and Indian Communities in Northern Manitoba 1890-1925 see essay by Susan Elaine Gray, History Department, University of Manitoba No. 30, Autumn 1995. Manitoba Historical society.

http://www.mb.ca/docs/mb_history/30/methodistdayschools.shtml

Submitted by Jean & Neil Armstrong - #1431

Charles Frederick McLachlan – A Life Well-Lived



When I was young, I remember one of my grandmother's younger brothers and his wife coming to visit her. Uncle Charlie was a tall man, 6 foot 3 inches, with a large athletic build and a pleasant and jovial personality. I knew that he had been a police officer in Saskatoon but not if he was city police or RCMP. Charlie, like his Dad, was athletic. He was competitive at golf and won top golfer in the 1938 tournament sponsored by the City Police Association. Biking, fishing, gardening, travelling and camping were other activities he enjoyed. He even built his own travel trailer.

Charlie was not quite 10 years old when his father died in an accident. His father and a neighbour were returning to their homesteads with provisions for their families during a bad winter snow storm, when their sleigh was hit by a train. Both men died. His mother and the children took over the homestead duties and the family lived on the homestead from April to November during the years 1908-1911 in order to prove up the homestead. When those duties

were completed, the family sold the property to a neighbour in the surrounding area, and moved into the town of North Battleford, Saskatchewan where everyone worked to make a living.

Charlie worked briefly for the CNR (Canadian National Railway) before joining the Canadian Expeditionary Force Medical Corp in May 1918 was sent to England. He boarded a ship on 28 1918 at Montreal, disembarked in Liverpool on August 1918 and went to Camp Bramshott. Charlie was hospitalized during the 1918 flu pandemic, also known as the Spanish flu, from 5th. October 1918 to the 1st. November 1918. 1918 flu pandemic killed millions of people, especially many young healthy WW1 military personnel. He was discharged from military service on 2nd. September 1919, departed from South Hampton on the ship Minnekahda, and arrived in Halifax on 14th. September 1919.

<https://12.wp.com/www.flintshirewarmemorials.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Bramshott-Camp-1.jpg>



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He returned to the Delmas District, west of North Battleford, Saskatchewan to resume his civilian life where he began farming.

Charlie married Rosa Belle Jubenville in 1919. They had four children, with one dying as an infant. He was a family man devoted to his wife and children. They moved to Saskatoon where they raised the children and he joined the city police force on 16 October 1922 as a Constable.



Effective 1 October 1934, Charlie was promoted to Patrol Sergeant with the Saskatoon City Police, a position he held until his retirement 30 April 1953 after 32 years' service. Charlie was the type of officer who would try to talk his way out of a situation rather than use force. His imposing size, I'm sure, added that intimidation factor and his calm demeanor added that sense of trust, compassion and fairness. By all accounts, he was a good police officer, well liked and respected by his fellow officers and the community he served.

In retirement, Charlie and Rosa enjoyed travelling in the trailer Charlie built. Their first retirement adventure was to Campbell River, B.C. where Charlie could fish for the "big ones". They often visited with family during their travels. Charlie kept busy with gardening and other activities when they were at home.

Charlie died 30 November 1978 in Saskatoon at the age of 82, after a life of service to his family, his country, and his civic and church communities. He and Rosa are buried in the Woodlawn Cemetery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.



Submitted by Cheryl Munkholm - # 1715

Anyone beginning, or needing, an update on researching in Scottish Records?

London & Middlesex Branch (OGS—Ontario Ancestors) invites you to join us on Saturday, October 2, 2021, at 10 a.m. EDT for a Zoom presentation: “Beginning Scottish Research”



Speaker, Emma Maxwell, is a genealogist based in Central Scotland. She runs the popular Scottish genealogy resource website www.scottishindexes.com along with her husband and fellow genealogist, Graham Maxwell. Their website offers free indexes to Scotland’s Criminal Database, Scottish Mental Health Records, the Scottish Paternity Index and more. A researcher with nearly 20 years of experience, Emma also undertakes ‘brickwall’ research, solving puzzles that have stumped family historians so that they can continue with their research.

We all have to start our research somewhere. In this presentation, we will focus on the basic records such as post-1855 birth, death and marriage records on ScotlandsPeople. We will learn what information is recorded and how to search these records. We will also look at some money-saving tips on ScotlandsPeople by understanding references.

The event is free and all are welcome to attend and share this with your friends and family. Registration is required. To register, visit <http://https://bit.ly/LMOA-Oct2021>

Graham and Emma also have a Facebook Group: **Scottish Indexes Group** and host a free bi-monthly conference (which you can access on Zoom or through Facebook) next one September 4. (Probably another early November Saturday). “We start at 7 am UK time and keep going until 11 pm UK time. We do this to make our conferences time-zone friendly. Each presentation is shown twice, once between 7 am and 3 pm, then again between 3 pm and 11 pm. You can come and go throughout the day.”

Submitted by Jane Thompson - #1475

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Dies at age 99

It was with great sadness, but also with fond memories, that we learned of the Duke of Edinburgh's passing on April 9th., 2021. He was a frequent visitor to Canada, as well as the ceremonial head of several regiments here. His legacy of public service is a lasting one, not least through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme, founded in 1956 (originally for Commonwealth countries, but now expanded to 144 nations), where he encouraged the ambitions of countless young people. His close association with Scotland began over 80 years ago, when he attended Gordonstoun School in the north-east of Scotland.



Submitted by Ken Godfrey #802

MacLachlans in the News

Indy Car Race Driver

Despite the spelling variation, we'll claim Scott as one of ours! Scott McLaughlin is now driving for Team Penske in the IndyCar Series. Scott was born June 10, 1993, and his hometown is Christchurch, New Zealand. He resides in the Gold Coast of Australia, but now races in the USA as part of this series, which can be followed on TV.

His website is [SCOTT-MCLAUGHLIN.COM](https://www.scott-mclaughlin.com)



Submitted by Ken Godfrey #802

Scottish Humour



Submitted by Jean & Neil Armstrong - #1431



Editor's Message

Please tell me what you do and don't like about the items in "*The Rowan Tree*", so that we may try to improve its content. Remember, this is your newsletter, and it can only be as good as your input to it, so I welcome your submissions; especially those from new members, and those from outside of Ontario. It is only in this way, that we can expand the geographic appeal of the newsletter.

Ken Godfrey - #802

Remember: If you have moved recently, have you notified CLA of your new address, so you will receive all of your newsletters - i.e. *The Rowan Tree*, and your magazine - i.e. *Clan Lachlan*? Also, if you have recently changed your e-mail address, send any/all of your changes to David MacLachlan, our Treasurer, with a copy to Ken Godfrey, please, whose names and addresses appear below. Also, remember to keep your Membership Dues current as well. Thank you.

Officers of Branch

**Interim President: CLA, & Executive Trustee
Lachlan Trust of Canada**

Duncan MacLachlan (41)
407-2 Bay Street
Kingston, Ontario, K7K 6T7 (613) 548-4969
e-mail: duncanm@clanlachlan.ca

**Vice President - Toronto Area,
and "Rowan Tree" Newsletter Editor**

Ken Godfrey (802)
94 Wishing Well Drive
Scarborough, Ont., M1T 1J4 (416) 499-9037
ken.godfrey1@gmail.com

Interim Branch Genealogist Recorder

Judy Gauthier (802)
94 Wishing Well Drive
Scarborough, Ont., M1T 1J4
(416) 499-9037
runningfree2005@hotmail.com

Interim Regional Director for Quebec

Robert McLachlan (1729)
336 Barberry Place, Dollard des Ormeaux
Montreal, QC, H9G 1V4
(514) 620-0531
rob.mclachlan@videotron.ca

VP - Ottawa & Northern Ontario

Position Vacant at Present

Membership Secretary:

Position Vacant at Present

CLA Treasurer & Treasurer of the Lachlan Trust of Canada

David MacLachlan (2600)
PO Box 1380
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6A 6N2
(705) 542-0581 cell
(705) 541-9679 home
(705) 759-8577 work (Oct-Apr)
(705) 812-1624 work (May-Sep)
damaclachlan@gmail.com

